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DESTINATION: MALAWI

Grade 7 students, from left, Ethan Demmans, Zach Benham, Logan Neumann, Sebastian Eger and Sean Suggitt from Regina's St. Pius X School help load a cabinet and other donations into a 40-foot shipping container destined for Malawi on Thursday. The school, along with SaskTel, SIAST, the provincial Ministry of Health and other organizations, gathered various medical and teaching supplies for schools and for a hospital in the African country. For the story, see page 3. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

Federal grain legislation not enough: Sask.

Major backlog.
Agriculture minister says railways are the 'big winners'

The Saskatchewan government and agriculture groups in Western Canada say federal legislation aimed at increasing the movement of grain doesn't go far enough.

The legislation introduced Wednesday would amend the Canada Grain Act and the Canada Transportation Act in a bid to clear grain that has been sitting in bins across the Prairies because of a rail transportation bottleneck.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart says in a letter to federal Transport Minister Lisa Raitt and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz that the province is disappointed.

"The transportation problems over the last several months negatively impacted producer returns and severely eroded Canada's export reputation as customers sought out more reliable sources for their grain," Stewart wrote Thursday.

"Given the critical nature of the problem and the railway's historical behaviour, our government believed more aggressive steps were required."

Stewart also said he thinks "the railways came out the big winners" in the legislation.

The proposed law would allow the Canadian Grain Commission to regulate how much a grain company would have to pay a farmer if the company didn't meet delivery dates set out in a contract.

It also aims to extend what are called inter-switching limits from 30 kilometres to 160 kilometres in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Most grain elevators on the Prairies are only served by one railway and the federal government says expanding inter-switching would allow more service by more rail companies.

Another change would enshrine a previous government order for Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways to move a minimum amount of grain or face a penalty of up to $100,000 a day.

Stewart told reporters at the legislature that one of his biggest concerns is that the legislation ends in August 2016.

Franck Groeneweg, chairman of SaskCanola, said the legislation is a good first step to help move grain to ports, but more is needed, adding the 2016 sunset clause worries him too. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Renting

Province reviews sex-discrimination exception

Saskatchewan's justice minister is reviewing part of the province's Human Rights Code that allows some landlords to turn away renters because of their sexual orientation.

Gord Wyant says he has concerns as to whether the decades-old section of the code is still valid.

It allows landlords to reject certain renters if an owner or owner's family is living on one side of a two-unit building.

For example, if an owner lives in one side of a duplex, they can turn away a tenant for the other unit based on sex or sexual orientation.

Wyant says it's concerning that there are exceptions within the code that have the effect of discriminating against people.

But the justice minister says he has heard that single women may only want to rent to other women, so there need to be talks about safety if the code is to be changed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concert

Fleetwood Mac reunion tour coming to town

The classic Fleetwood Mac lineup is getting back together for a North American tour, and they're stopping in Saskatoon.

Keyboardist Christine McVie is rejoining the group after a 16-year absence for the On With the Show tour, beginning this September.

Fleetwood Mac is scheduled to play the Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon on Nov. 12. METRO

Death

Man pleads guilty to negligence

A Saskatchewan man has been released from custody after pleading guilty to criminal negligence causing death.

Dannie Justin Knife, 21, was charged following the death of Christian Bird from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation.

Bird, 25, was found clinging to a piece of ice on Sandy Lake on May 1, 2011, and was eventually pulled from the water but did not survive.

Four people, including Knife, were charged with second-degree murder.

Knife pleaded guilty to the lesser charge this week and was sentenced to time served and probation.

MBC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHR eyes newcomer access

Research. Health region hopes potential changes can help immigrants clear hurdles to care

The Saskatoon Heath Region (SHR) is working to eliminate the barriers that often prevent newcomers from accessing care.

A recent SHR report found that while services for newcomers have expanded, challenges persist and now it is researching to ensure potential changes are aligned with the region's needs.

"As we have individuals from different parts of the world come here in larger numbers … we have to decide is it enough to provide translation services verbally? Or do we have to start having some of the basic health information sheets either on our website or in printed form translated?" asked the region's chief medical health officer, Cory Neudorf.

"We know we have many, many different culture groups starting to live in our cities, but which are the more common ones?"

Response

Phil Anton, executive director of the Saskatoon Open Door Society, said the potential changes could have a positive impact.

- "If the Saskatoon Health Region is able to communicate in the language of the newcomer, I think that certainly will result in a deeper and clearer understanding of any of the medical issues," he said.
- "Each newcomer who may walk through the doors of a medical clinic certainly would be better served if the employees of the organization have cultural safety initiatives and cultural sensitively training."

In addition to answering such questions, the health region is also in the process of performing a cultural competence assessment of its public health branch to identify potential shortfalls in cultural sensitivity. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Phil Anton, executive director of the Saskatoon Open Door Society, is seen outside of the organization's office on Thursday afternoon. He says potential changes being examined by the Saskatoon Health Region could have a positive impact on providing health care for newcomers in Saskatoon. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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In the spotlight

Palliative care or euthanasia? Manitoba MP reignites debate

The debate around euthanasia was reignited this week when Manitoba MP Steven Fletcher introduced two private member's bills on the subject.

But one palliative care advocate in Saskatchewan says assisted suicide often hogs the spotlight for discussions on end-of-life treatment.

"Recognizing that this debate is going to occur in our country, we continue to suggest that the more important debate… (is) why we do not yet have an adequate, consistent and comprehensive system of palliative care," said Jeff Christiansen, president of the Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association.

Christiansen explained terminally ill patients in rural and urban areas deal with physicians who have different training.

A national strategy on palliative care and increased access to education could help correct the situation, he said.

"This aspect of the conversation about where we are at in terms of quality accessible palliative care in our country needs to be included," said Christiansen.

Fletcher, who was paralyzed in a car accident, said Wednesday his proposal is "designed to help people who are in pain and suffering and most likely lived most of their lives."

He added that a commission would carefully monitor the system.

While Christiansen said palliative care emphasizes comfort over the curative aspects of treatment, he stressed there is a "distinction between that and actively assisting in (a patient's) death."

Still, he said, it's easy to understand why euthanasia captures public attention, despite medical advances.

"The reality of dying is that it can be difficult and it can be painful," he said. "It is an aspect of the human condition that we have a certain degree of fear (around)."

JACOB MORGAN/METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan organizations send donations to Malawi

We See You. Items being sent over include medical and learning supplies, as well as furniture

SARAH TAGUIAM
Metro in Regina

Several organizations in Regina and Saskatoon are extending a helping hand to schools and a hospital in Malawi.

Through SaskTel's We See You program, the groups have collected enough donations to fill a 40-foot-long industrial shipping container bound for the African country.

Among the recipients of the medical and learning supplies and furniture will be University of Malawi Polytechnic and Senga Model Primary School.

Grade 7 students from St. Pius X School in Regina helped load the goods into the container on Thursday.

"Sometimes it gets hard. But when you think about what you're doing for the kids, it really makes it that much easier," said Ethan Demmans, one of the students, during a break in the work at a Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region warehouse.

According to Demmans, 13, his school held smoothie sales and a "Bring Your Hat Day" to contribute financially to the donations.

"The help is very (much) needed around the world," he added, "and it's really nice to know that the kids in Malawi are getting help."

Quoted

"The help is very (much) needed around the world ... and it's really nice to know that the kids in Malawi are getting help."

Student Ethan Demmans

The container is the fifteenth that SaskTel and its supporters are sending to developing countries that lack teaching and learning resources.

Some of that assistance through the wider project has come from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and the provincial Ministry of Health.

This year, they've chosen Malawi due to a partnership with the University of Regina, which has had projects in that country for years.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with so many excellent organizations to make this a reality," said Thomas Chase, the U of R's provost and vice-president.

"Being able to send these materials will make a huge difference in the lives of many Malawians."

Grade 7 students help move donations on Thursday through a Regina warehouse and into a shipping container, the contents of which will be sent to schools and to a hospital in Malawi. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

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A man tends to his polio-affected son in New Delhi Thursday. The WHO has formally declared India polio-free, with no new case of the disease detected in the country in the past three years. MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHO declares 'victory' over polio in India

'A day that we have dreamt about.' Once considered all but an impossibility, the country is now officially free of the 'dreaded disease'

The scourge of polio ends in India with a four-year-old girl, Rukhsar Khatoon, who became ill as a baby after her parents forgot to get her vaccinated.

Her barely perceptible limp the only lingering sign of the disease, Rukhsar was the last person to contract polio in the nation of 1.2 billion people.

The World Health Organization formally declared India polio-free on Thursday, after three years with no new cases. It said the milestone means the entire Southeast Asian region, home to a quarter of the world's population, is considered free of the disease.

Being declared polio-free once was considered all but impossible in a nation hobbled by corruption, poor sanitation and profound poverty. Although the disease could return, eradicating it is a landmark public health achievement.

This is "a day that we have dreamt about," said Poonam Khetrpal Singh, a WHO official at a ceremony in New Delhi to declare the entire Southeast Asian region free of the disease. Singh described it as "a day that all countries fought hard for, and a day when all stakeholders come together to celebrate the victory of mankind over a dreaded disease."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'St. Barack' has kind of a nice ring to it, don't you think?

Pope Francis and U.S. President Barack Obama share a laugh as they meet at the Vatican on Thursday. Obama called himself a "great admirer" of Pope Francis, considering the pontiff a kindred spirit on issues of economic inequality. Their historic first meeting comes as Obama's administration and the church remain deeply split on issues of abortion and contraception. GABRIEL BOUYS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

30% jump. U.S. estimates 1 in 68 kids has autism

The U.S. government increased its autism estimate on Thursday to 1 in 68 U.S. children.

That's a 30 per cent jump from the last federal estimate of 1 in 88 children with autism or a related disorder. The latest calculation means autism is more than twice as common as officials said it was just seven years go.

But health officials say the new number may not mean autism is occurring more often. Much of the increase is believed to be from a cultural and medical shift, with doctors diagnosing autism more frequently, especially in children with milder problems.

There are no blood or biologic tests for autism, so diagnosis is not an exact science. It's identified by making judgments about a child's behaviour.

This latest estimate by the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention means autism affects roughly 1.2 million U.S. children and teens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health. Morning-after pill to carry weight warning

Emergency contraceptive pills known as the morning-after pill will soon carry new warnings about reduced effectiveness in women weighing more than 165 pounds.

Health Canada has asked companies to add warnings to packaging advising that the pills are less effective in women weighing 165 to 176 pounds and are not effective in women weighing more than that.

Women who weigh 165 pounds or more are advised to ask a health professional for advice on alternative methods of emergency contraception.

The morning-after pills available without prescription in Canada are Next Choice, Norlevo, Option 2 and Plan B.

The drugs are taken by women up to 72 hours after unprotected sex or a contraceptive accident, such as a condom breaking, to prevent pregnancy.

The pills contain a higher dose of levonorgestrel compared to regular birth control pills with this hormone and work by preventing ovulation or fertilization of an egg. They have no effect if a woman is already pregnant.

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Support lowest in North Africa for women's equality: Poll

Afrobarometer poll.
Disparities across continent highlighted

Attitudes toward women's equality are dimmer in North Africa than in the rest of the continent, according to a new poll of about 50,000 people across 34 African countries.

The Afrobarometer poll, conducted in 2011-13 and released Thursday, found women are at a disadvantage compared to men across Africa, but support for women's equality is growing.

Those polled in the predominantly Arab Muslim north gave the lowest level of support for equality and described the highest frequency of discrimination.

North Africa in general reports greater wealth and higher levels of economic development than the rest of the continent.

Yet, while 68 per cent of respondents across Africa felt women could be leaders, that figure was 50 per cent in North Africa, where people in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia were interviewed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo, women protest in support of Amina Filali, who committed suicide in March 2012, in front of the Moroccan parliament in Rabat. A poll of 50,000 people across 34 African countries finds attitudes toward women's equality are dimmest in the predominantly Muslim north. ABDELJALIL BOUNHAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miley Cyrus performs in Anaheim, Calif., in February. A college in upstate New York is offering a summer course on the singer. CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES

It's not twerking 101, prof says

A college in upstate New York is offering a summer course on Miley Cyrus and won't even make students do any class twerk.

The Saratogian newspaper reports the course will be offered by Skidmore College, a private liberal arts college in Saratoga Springs.

Visiting Assistant Prof. Carolyn Chernoff calls the course The Sociology of Miley Cyrus: Race, Class, Gender and Media.

Chernoff says she'll focus on the 21-year-old performer and all her incarnations as a way to study such topics as gender, race, class, fame and power.

She says she got the idea after teaching a course on youth culture that featured video of Cyrus twerking at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards.

But Chernoff says students will have to learn how to twerk on their own time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SXSW crash

Fourth person dies from incident

Police say a fourth person has died after being struck by a drunken-driving suspect earlier this month during the South by Southwest festival.

Police tweeted Thursday that DeAndre Tatum died of injuries suffered March 13. Police spokeswoman Veneza Bremner confirmed the accuracy of the tweet. But she said the department would have no further updates.

Tatum was in a crowd outside an Austin club when the driver smashed his car through a street barricade and accelerated into the festivalgoers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PM in Germany

Harper talks bootin' Putin from G8

Chances are slim that Russian President Vladimir Putin will ever be allowed back in the G8, Stephen Harper said Thursday following a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the crisis in eastern Europe.

"I don't see any way of a return for Mr. Putin to the table unless Russia fundamentally changes its course," Harper, standing next to his German counterpart, told a news conference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington mudslide

Rescue workers feeling strain after days of searching

Weary rescuers pressed through rain and their own exhaustion Thursday, searching for more bodies and perhaps a miracle atop the pile of filth and debris that laid waste to a Washington town and killed at least 25 people.

The main goal now is to find more bodies and winnow the list of the 90 people who are missing in the mudslide that buried the community of Oso on Saturday.

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Spotters play key role in search for missing plane

Hunt for Flight 370. Eyes can spot things man-made equipment can't — but they also can play tricks

They stare out at a punishingly unbroken expanse of grey water, their eyes darting up and down, left and right, looking for something, anything, that could explain the fate of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane.

The hunt for Flight 370, which vanished on March 8 during a trip from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, is complicated in just about every way imaginable, from the vastness of the search area to its distance from land to the brutal weather that plagues it. But for all the fancy technology on board the planes and vessels scouring the swirling waters, the best tool searchers have are their own eyes. But those eyes are also subject to the peculiarities of the human brain. They can blink at the wrong moment, and can grow weary.

"It is incredibly fatiguing work," says Flight Lt. Stephen Graham, tactical co-ordinator for the crew on board a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion. Search and rescue makes up a small part of what Graham's squadron does, and visual spotting is an even smaller subset of that. But everyone on board has had to learn how to do it — and it's not as simple as most people think. Graham learned as part of a year-long training stint in Canada, and has had ongoing training since.

Crew members have to know what they're doing, because the electronic equipment on board sometimes doesn't. No one on board is a designated spotter; everyone rotates positions to fight fatigue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Search continues

Many clues but no luck

The clues keep piling up: more mysterious objects spotted in the southern Indian Ocean, perhaps part of the missing Malaysian airliner, perhaps not.

Strong winds and fast currents make it difficult to pinpoint where they are right now, and stormy weather Thursday again halted the hunt by air and sea for evidence of debris fields. The search for the plane that disappeared March 8 has yet to produce a single piece of debris — not to mention the black boxes, which could solve the mystery of why the jet flew so far off-course.

Japan said it provided Malaysia with information from satellite images taken Wednesday showing about 10 objects that might be debris from the plane in the same general area as the 122 objects spotted by a French satellite on Sunday.

Muddying the picture perhaps, a Thai satellite revealed about 300 objects about 200 kilometres to the southwest of the items seen by the Japanese and French satellites. The photos were taken Monday, one day after the French and two days before the Japanese.

Heavy rain, wind and low clouds caused the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to pull back all 11 planes scheduled to take part in the search Thursday. Five ships continued the hunt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flight Lt. Jayson Nichols looks at a map as he flies aboard a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion aircraft during a search operation for the missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 over the southern Indian Ocean, Thursday. Planes and ships searching for debris failed to find any on Thursday before bad weather cut their hunt short. MICHAEL MARTINA-POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IMF offers Ukraine up to $18B in loans

New government. It finds itself caught between the demands of international creditors and a restive population

Western nations rushed to help Ukraine on Thursday, with the International Monetary Fund pledging up to $18 billion in loans, the UN condemning the vote that drove Crimea into Russian hands and the U.S. Congress considering even harsher sanctions against Russia.

Yet even with such intensive help to prop up Ukraine's teetering economy, the prime minister warned that all residents are going to feel pain from the necessary financial reforms ahead — and home energy prices are certain to rise quickly.

And if that wasn't enough, former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko — one of the country's most polarizing figures — said she will run for president in the May 25 vote. The announcement is sure to usher in strong emotions in Ukraine's turbulent politics.

Russia, for its part, shrugged off the spotlight that was on Ukraine and the torrent of criticism directed at its annexation of Crimea. President Vladimir Putin's government announced it would set up its own payment system to rival Visa and MasterCard after the two companies pulled their services from some Russian banks in the wake of international sanctions.

Speaking in Rome, President Barack Obama called the swell of support a "concrete signal of how the world is united with Ukraine."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Necessary change

'Kamikaze government'

The reforms demanded by the IMF — which included raising taxes, freezing the minimum wage and hiking energy prices — will hit households hard and are likely to strain the interim government's hold on power.

"This is a kamikaze government that perfectly well understands that there is no other way to stabilize Ukraine," said Viktor Zamyatin, analyst with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think-tank.

Former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko speaks during a press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Hollande

French magazine fined over photos

A French court has ordered a gossip magazine to pay 15,000 euros for publishing photos of what it said was a helmeted President Francois Hollande visiting an actress for a secret tryst. Hollande broke up with his partner Valerie Trierweiler within days of the publication in Closer magazine in January.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuclear safety

Container in radioactive scare not well secured

Cylinders carrying radioactive material fell during unloading in Halifax because one end of a shipping container they were in wasn't properly secured to a crane, Canada's nuclear safety agency says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

North Korea. Leader's haircut gone viral

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's distinctive hairstyle is the 'do of the day on the Internet, thanks to a viral report that every male university student in the capital is now under orders to get a buzz just like it. But recent visitors to the country say they've seen no evidence of any mass haircutting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Qatar

U.S. couple accused of starving girl gets three years in jail

An American couple charged with starving their eight-year-old adopted daughter to death in the Gulf Arab country of Qatar was sentenced Thursday to three years in prison.

The prosecution had demanded the death penalty, alleging Matthew and Grace Huang had denied Gloria food and locked her in her room at night.

The Huangs say their adopted daughter, who was born in Ghana, died of medical problems complicated by unusual eating habits that included periods of binging and self-starvation. Defence witnesses testified the girl was healthy and active just days before her death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man posed as female

Rapist sentenced to death in China

A Chinese court has sentenced to death a rapist who posed as a female on online social networks to lure 16 girls to meet him, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Thursday.

Wang Yong, 40, was sentenced earlier this month for raping the girls aged 12 to 16 starting in 2009.

Xinhua said Wang was unemployed and posed as a female to convince schoolgirls to meet him. He raped the girls in hotels.

The court in Wuhu city also sentenced Wang's accomplice, a 16-year-old girl who said she had been coerced by him, to three years' imprisonment. She brought younger girls whose trust she had gained to the hotels. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hideko Hakamada, sister of inmate Iwao Hakamada, is all smiles at a press conference in Shizuoka, Japan, Thursday, after the district court decided to reopen a high-profile murder case in which her brother, inset, has been on death row for 45 years. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inmate freed after nearly half century on death row

Guinness World Record. 45 of his 48 years in prison were on death row, making Hakamada the longest-serving such inmate

The world's longest-serving death row inmate was freed Thursday by a Japanese court which found investigators had likely fabricated evidence in the murder case that put the former pro boxer behind bars for nearly half a century.

The Shizuoka District Court suspended the death sentence and ordered a retrial for 78-year-old Iwao Hakamada, who had been convicted in the 1966 murder of a family and was sentenced to death in 1968. Hours later, Hakamada walked out of the Tokyo Detention Center, escorted by his sister, Hideko, 81, who devoted more than half of her life to the legal battle. Hakamada was convicted of killing a company manager and his family and setting fire to their home, where he was a live-in employee.

The court said Thursday that a DNA analysis showed that blood stains on five pieces of clothing, which investigators said were worn by the culprit during the crime, did not match the DNA of Hakamada, and trousers that prosecutors submitted as evidence did not fit when he tried them on. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lengthy process

Hakamada was not executed because of a lengthy appeals process.

- It took 27 years for the Supreme Court to deny his first appeal for a retrial. He filed a second appeal in 2008, and the court finally ruled in his favour on Thursday.
- Thursday's ruling underscores Japan's much-criticized closed interrogations without a lawyer, which rely heavily on self-confession. Hakamada had confessed in a closed interrogation that lasted 20 days.

People view Pierre-Auguste Renoir's painting On the Shore of the Seine after a news conference at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Thursday. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once-stolen Renoir returns to Baltimore

On the Shore of the Seine. Painting went missing for decades

A tiny Renoir painting has returned home to a gallery in the Baltimore Museum of Art nearly 63 years after it was stolen and then kept mysteriously hidden for decades until it resurfaced in 2012.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's painting On the Shore of the Seine, from about 1879, was unveiled Thursday as the centrepiece of a new exhibition, The Renoir Returns. It opens to the public Sunday.

"It's a moment we've been looking forward to," said museum director Doreen Bolger. "I always believed in my heart that it would come back.... It's what we're about: preserving works of art."

Senior Curator Katy Rothkopf called the painting "our little jewel." As an artwork, the piece is a good example of Renoir's high impressionist style and technique during the late 19th century, with bright colours and expressive brushwork.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CATCHING DREAMS

Day 1: the Problem
Day 2: the Plan
Day 3: the Promise

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly $2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.

Feds set course — but not date

The road to the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act has been a hard one.

After four years of dialogue, national outcry from indigenous people and a failed first draft, the federal government says it is finally on track to improving Canada's on-reserve education.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, condemned the original First Nations Education Act in November 2013.

In an open letter to Bernard Valcourt, minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Atleo explained the document was "not acceptable" for First Nations in Canada.

Atleo said indigenous people need control over education, statutory funding, language and culture classes, no unilateral federal oversight and ongoing dialogue.

While critics of the draft say the federal government wasn't hearing what First Nations people were saying, Valcourt insists he heard them loud and clear.

"After we got the draft bill out, that's when the chiefs and the assembly considered the draft and outlined what they believed were the conditions necessary to ensure the success of an education system," he said.

But while Valcourt said the changes are historic, it may be a while before Canadians see them.

"That work is taking place as we speak and we have no timeline in terms of when this will be ready, but it is important that we continue the dialogue with First Nations."

Atleo said the commitments made by the federal government are a step in the right direction. "They put resources on the table," Atleo said in a recent interview.

Both Atleo and Valcourt said the road ahead would be challenging but worth it.

"This is for the benefit of the whole country," said Valcourt. "The First Nation leaders and chiefs and councillors I've talked to on reserve, they all want to be a part of a successful Canada, of a Canada where there is an opportunity for everyone provided that they have the tools — and this is a fundamental tool that they badly need."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO, WITH FILES FROM JACOB MORGAN

Success stories

There are a few notable exceptions to the lacklustre First Nations education system in Canada.

- **British Columbia.** Indigenous communities have worked with the government on a unique system since the '90s. Their education authorities are providing a foundation for the federal proposals. Students can move seamlessly between First Nations and public schools.
- **Nova Scotia.** Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey earned the right to control its education in 1999 and incorporates culturally sensitive curricula and indigenous language immersion. In the 2012-13 school year, it reported an 87.7 per cent high school graduation rate.

Making moving

Grade 4 teacher Myra Laponsee with her students at Sturgeon Lake Central School. While some teachers at on-reserve put forward by the federal government, others say it may be a step in the right direction to restoring First Nations culture.

Reclaiming what was lost. Teachers united in call for government to repair damage to native culture — but split on their current attempt

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Want to know the impact of the funding deficit on aboriginal culture? Just ask a teacher.

Educators at two First Nations schools in central Saskatchewan say the federal government needs to do much more to teach on-reserve students about their history and culture.

They argue a lack of funding is denying students a chance to learn about First Nations traditions and languages, which were repressed and almost lost through Canada's residential schools system.

"They lost a part of themselves," says Grade 1 teacher Karen Rondeau, speaking in her small classroom at the Sturgeon Lake Central School, which serves the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

"To make themselves whole again, they need their culture; they need their language; they need their traditions to be proud people and move on," Rondeau says. "(The Federal Government) took it away, so why not give it back?"

Through the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, Prime Minister Stephen Harper plans to release $1.252 billion in additional

do, on

schools are skeptical about the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act
MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

core funding for First Nations education over three years, starting in 2016. This, Harper says, would allow communities to "incorporate language and culture programming."

But with little information on how the money will be distributed, some, like Charlene Constant, who teaches Grade 1 at Bernard Constant Community School on the James Smith Cree Nation, are skeptical.

"It sounds like a big number," she says. "But once you break that down to all the bands in Canada and it goes through whoever it needs to go through … it's not going to be enough."

Myra Laponsee, who teaches Grade 4 at Sturgeon Lake Central School, feels the bill is a step forward in restoring First Nations traditions.

"I know it's really difficult to get (our culture) back, but it's possible; it's absolutely possible," she says.

"Right now, what they're trying to do, as First Nations people, it's only going to benefit us. It's not the government writing it for us this time, the way they did back then. It's us writing our own education act."

On the web

1 Audio slideshow. Keeping a language alive
Go online for a snapshot of a Cree language course and find out how some teachers are trying to reintroduce their students to a culture almost lost.

2 Residential schools. Some wounds don't heal
Head to metronews.ca to hear the story of Howard Walker, an elder who survived the residential schools system, and why he will never trust the Canadian government.

Giving kids a sporting chance

For some students in Canada, access to sport and athletics is as simple as putting their name on a sign-up sheet.

For some students on First Nations reserves, the thought is a pipe dream.

For the last five years, Blair Sands has taught physical education at Bernard Constant Community School on the James Smith First Nation in central Saskatchewan. He says his students are missing out on opportunities to nurture their athletic abilities and their future.

"There's no doubt in my mind that sports have a positive impact on young people," said Sands, as students zip by on small scooters in the gym.

Working with community members, parents and administrators, Sands started a non-profit booster club to raise funds for the school's athletics program, as his budget for the 2013-14 school year was set at roughly $500.

Blair Sands, the phys-ed teacher at Bernard Constant Community School, has started fundraising through a non-profit booster club to ensure his students have access to sports. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

"You can lower crime rates and you can lower drop-out rates if you have the right programming and the right people," he says.

Sands says they've raised roughly $20,000 in equipment and cash through provincial grants and contributions.

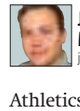
"If (youth) are in a sports program, they're not getting into trouble because they're playing volleyball, they're playing hockey or they're on the gym mat," he says.

"I'm not a gambling man — but the odds are against you if you don't have positive things to influence your life, coaching and sports included."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Beating the odds

Erralyn Thomas
JACOB MORGAN/METRO



JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

Athletics may well have saved Erralyn Thomas's life.

Thomas, the B.C. youth representative for the Assembly of First Nations, hails from the Snuneymuxw First Nation, located on the southeast part of Vancouver Island.

The 27-year-old says her school was the size of a trailer and sat between a railway and a highway.

"We had to turn people away," says Thomas. "It's not really safe." The graduation rate, she added, was around 40 per cent at the time she finished high school.

Her parents were alcoholics and left when she was 11 or 12, leaving her and her brother with their grandparents, who were residential school survivors.

"That affected their parenting," she says.

But Thomas found solace in sport. Her high school coaches took a personal interest when she was in trouble.

"I was out on the streets from 13 to 16, and so mentors and my coaches … helped me get here," she says.

Thomas earned a lacrosse scholarship to Niagara University and played in the 2009 women's lacrosse World Cup. Today, she is a law student at the University of British Columbia.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.65¢ (+0.43¢)

TSX 14,178.84 (-5.26)

OIL $101.28 US (+$1.02)

GOLD $1,294.80 US (-$8.60)

Natural gas: $4.52 US (+$0.13)
Dow Jones: 16,264.23 (-4.76)

1936 item

Nobel Peace Prize sold for $1.16M

A 1936 Nobel Peace Prize discovered at a South American pawn shop has been sold at auction in Baltimore for $1.16 million US.

Brian Kendrella, president of New York-based Stack's Bowers Galleries, says the auction drew half a dozen bidders from six countries. The winning bidder Thursday was an individual collector from Asia who asked to remain anonymous.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

StatsCan

More people fancy a trip to Canada, eh?

Statistics Canada says tourism spending in Canada rose one per cent in the fourth quarter, the largest gain in three and a half years.

The agency says the increase was mostly due to higher spending by Canadians travelling within the country.

Those Canadian travellers spent 1.2 per cent more in the fourth quarter, marking the largest gain since the first quarter of 2011.

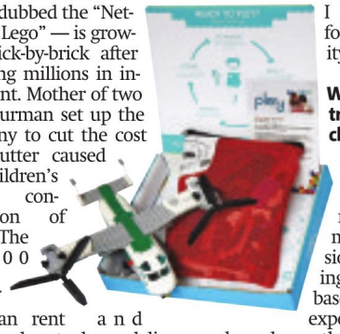
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Building buzz for Lego rental service

Toy story. Pley offers subscription-based model for children

Toy rental company Pley is laying down Lego foundations for global expansion.

The U.S.-based startup — dubbed the "Netflix for Lego" — is growing brick-by-brick after receiving millions in investment. Mother of two Elina Furman set up the company to cut the cost and clutter caused by children's rapid consumption of toys. The 15,000 members of Pley can rent and receive door-to-door delivery from a choice of thousands of Lego sets for a fee between $15 and $39 US. The founder explains why this venture is providing the educational building blocks for the future.



When did you see the gap in the market?

Eighteen months ago I had an avalanche of toys because of my other job as "A-List Mom" (a children's advice and ideas website). I thought, how can I manage this and reduce our footprint and at the same time give children access to educational toys rather than just cluttering our lives? So I started looking for an opportunity to rent.

What are you trying to teach children?

I'm moving away from the old consumer model based on material possessions and creating a community based on a sharing experience. Children have the responsibility of separating bricks, checking all the pieces are included and thinking about their ecological footprint. Also, parents want to get their children into Lego because of the cognitive and spatial awareness skills that can be gained by playing with the toy.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The cause of the obesity epidemic may never be solved...

This frame grab from a video shows Ronald McDonald of Oak Ridge, N.C., in a Taco Bell commercial. The fast-food chain began airing ads in the U.S. Thursday that feature everyday men who happen to have the same name as the McDonald's mascot. The marketing campaign is intended to promote Taco Bell's new breakfast menu, which features novelties like a waffle taco. TACO BELL VIA TAYLOR STRATEGY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lululemon. 2013 revenues rise, but 2014 guidance low

Lululemon Athletica Inc. says it plans to get back to "what it does best" as it seeks to win back customers' love and put last year's missteps behind it.

For the 2013 fiscal year revenue increased to $1.6 billion from $1.4 billion in 2012. Its immediate sales outlook was flat, while guidance for 2014 was lower than analysts had expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EU. Canada could be alternative for Russian oil

With western sanctions threatening to tighten the taps on Russian energy exports to Europe, Canada could become an alternative supply source — but not any time soon.

The Conservative government has been pushing for Canada to expand its energy export reach by building new oil pipelines to coastal waters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Under the provision of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* Notice is hereby given that Navacare Inc. has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for Special Use - Home Delivery Permit to deliver alcohol in the name of the business known as Surprise Her Gifts.com located at M3 420 Duchess St., Saskatoon, SK.

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objections. Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious, or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

Write to:
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority
Box 5054
Regina, SK S4P 3M3

Under the provision of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997* Notice is hereby given that Le Lash Lash and makeup Boutique Inc. has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for Special Use Permit to sell alcohol in premises known as Le Lash Lash and Makeup Boutique at 100 245 3rd Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK of which the following is a correct legal description:

Lot 43
Blk/Par 152
Plan No. 99SA35105; Ext 0
100 245 3rd Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

Write to:
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority
Box 5054
Regina, SK S4P 3M3

JUNOS ONLY MISSING ONE THING

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 On the money. Who says being a writer doesn't pay? The Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a silver collector's coin honouring acclaimed Canadian author Alice Munro. The mint's president, Ian Bennett, says the coin is a "beautiful and meaningful keepsake for readers, writers and collectors alike." Know what I consider a meaningful keepsake? Her actual books.

2 The Juno Awards. Has anyone noticed this show getting a lot sexier over the last decade? With all-star guests like Arcade Fire, Michael Bublé and Avril Lavigne hitting Winnipeg like a warm spell, the Junos have become must-see TV. The only thing missing, sadly, is me.

3 J'accuse. The Parti Québécois has alleged that Anglos from outside Quebec are committing voter fraud and trying to "steal" the provincial election. Apparently hundreds of Ontario students have been denied voter registration despite having lived in Montreal for years. To be fair, it's not that they don't want people to vote. They just prefer the ones that are likely to vote for them.

4 En Vogue. Kim and Kanye were the "tweet of the town" after this week's Vogue pictorial, but what really struck me upon visiting her profile was the message on my screen that read "Sign up for the Kim Kardashian Newsletter and stay in the know," implying that there's anything about her that we still need to know. #VogueBacklash

5 Attention, Entourage fans. Good news: The long-awaited film version is currently being shot. All original cast members return as the circulating group-selfies confirm, including Sloan, played by homegirl Emmanuelle Chriqui and a huge list of secret celebrity cameos. The bad news? You'll have to wait till summer of 2015. #entouragemovie

6 Kroll Show. In this week's finale, American comic and star of The League Nick Kroll took it to our nation with a Degrassi spoof and other very amusing Canuck-based parodies. Because on the growing list of topics that are now taboo, Canadians are among the few people you're still allowed to openly mock.

7 #RobtheMob. Amidst all the big-budget films being released, this is one that's generating a remarkable level of positive buzz. After previews, Rob the Mob hits L.A. theatres Friday as this season's sneaky surprise with a solid cast, including Andy Garcia and Boardwalk Empire's Michael Pitt. Punctuating the film throughout are various versions of Stephen Endelman's original song Love and the Gun, a quietly epic retro-anthem sung by soon-to-be revealed secret superstar Tamela D'Amico.

8 Colon Cancer Canada. There's nothing funny about this disease, but their annual Push For Your Tush campaign does inspire a chuckle. Hockey legend Darryl Sittler always participates as his late wife was the inspiration for the fundraiser Wendy Bear. Warning: He's still pretty strong so do not attempt a surprise bodycheck like I did. Especially after he knocks you out the first time. Happening Canada-wide in the month of June, register now. @ColonCancerCDA #PushForYourTush

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

This bird's in fine feather

JOHANNES STOETTER/BOURNEMOUTH NEWS/REX FEATURES PHOTOS

Tropical parrot is a painted person

This may look like a typical holiday snap of a tropical parrot, but a closer inspection reveals it is in fact a painted person. The artwork is the latest offering from former world champion body painter Johannes Stoetter, who spent weeks painstakingly planning how he could transform a female model into an exotic bird. METRO

A close-up of the artist at work.

Discerning eyes needed to see woman

Despite all the difficulty, Stoetter was satisfied in the end.

"I feel very happy with the final work. Most people's reaction is 'nice photo of a parrot, where did you photograph it?'" the artist said.

"Even some of my closest friends who know me and my art didn't notice that it is not a real parrot. When they found out, they were really amazed and surprised." METRO

Clickbait

TAKARA SMALL
takara.small@metronews.ca

Cash is so passé. The idea of using credit, debit or (god forbid) actual money to buy something is fading out. The future is now full of mobile-swiping and button-clicking to achieve even the simplest of necessities such as food or drinks. Despite the hype surrounding bitcoins, most people seem hesitant about adopting the digital currency. Thanks to the proliferation of smartphone technology, now you can eat and drink without ever having to worry about cards or cash.

CONTRIBUTED

PayPal:

With a simple swipe of a finger Canadians can sign in and pay for food or drinks while bypassing the arduous task of counting change or fumbling with cards based on a location-based model. The server sees a photo of the customer when they decide to pay and he or she simply swipes right to pay.

Eat24:

Like PayPal, this app can be used globally to not only pay for food via your smartphone but also search out places to eat. Find yourself in a new city? No worries, just download the app and let our robot overlords help you find nourishment.

Comments

RE: The Reason Canadian Kids Suck At Math? They Aren't Doing It, says Paul Sullivan. Published March 25

This debate seems so 20-years-ago to me. People are even still talking about calculators. The elephant in the room here is the fact that everyone now has access to a super computer.

People graduate from high school without even being able to model simple physical systems outside some memorized formulas. Things don't get much better in university either. We are in the end going to have to rip out and replace a lot of our current curriculum.

So if things like the "discovery" system don't work, the answer is not to retreat to the old ways. The old ways don't work either.

We need to come up with some new ways...

ggroups posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Synopsis

After a quick recap of Old Testament highlights we meet Noah, the last descendant of Adam and Eve's son Seth. The world he lives in is a dangerous place, ruled by Cain's bloodthirsty bloodline, but Noah (Russell Crowe) and family (Jennifer Connelly, Douglas Booth, Emma Watson, Logan Lerman and Leo McHugh Carroll) live as nature-loving, proto-hippies. That is, until Noah has an— apocalyptic dream. Consulting with his grandfather Methuselah (Anthony Hopkins), he determines The Creator wants him to build an ark and laden it with two of every creature in advance of a great flood that will destroy mankind and the violence they perpetrate. But Noah will have to make some troubling decisions to fulfill God's will.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●●●○

Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly in Noah. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Crowe floats this boat

Up to the ark. Darren Aronofsky's art-house epic Noah rises above its biblical origins

Richard: Mark, the best way I can describe Noah is emotionally ambitious. It takes a familiar story and shines a new light on it by highlighting Noah's spiritual quandary. In the film — which takes liberties with the biblical story — he's a vegan prophet who grapples with doing God's will while balancing the needs of all of humanity, particularly his family. The meaning of faith and the consequences of adhering to that faith are the film's main thrust, but as interesting as that is, the movie feels like one thing when it is addressing the spiritual and quite another — possibly a Lord of the Rings movie — when it is in action movie mode.

Mark: Richard, I queasily bought the transition from religious allegory to action pic because I admired the tone and quality of the movie. I shuddered when I first heard about the picture, but then got interested when I found out Aronofsky was directing. Unlike most biblical epics, the dialogue isn't embarrassing and the lead actor isn't over the top.

RC: It's not your father's biblical epic, that's for sure. This is an art-house epic that filters the story through Aronofsky's impressionistic style. Some may criticize the movie for not being reverent enough, but I thought he treated the story as a living, breathing thing and not an artifact from another time. But having said that, Aronofsky moves in mysterious ways. He shot the epic almost entirely in close-up, and the flood scene could have used a bit more Cecil B. DeMille.

MB: He also indulged in some sci-fi flourishes I don't remember from the Bible! But I accepted them as part of the world of wonder when the Earth was a *pre*-prehistoric place. The movie has a strong environmental message and also feels critical of doctrinaire religious fundamentalism. Noah, at the end, almost makes a choice that only a deranged religious kook would make. Speaking of which, what did you think of Russell Crowe?

RC: Crowe's been in a bit of a slump in recent years. The dangerous, complex actor of movies like Gladiator and A Beautiful Mind seemed to have taken a backseat to the performer who thought making The Man with the Iron Fists was a good idea. Noah is a nice reminder of Crowe's delicate mix of fearsome masculinity and subtle sensitivity.

MB: I thought he was wonderfully restrained in the part even when he was deranged with fervour. My only complaint is that the movie peaks too soon. I guess there's a bit of a problem with the story... arc.

Three Days in Havana takes 25 years

New film. Drama filmed in Cuba was quarter of a century in the making

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Greg Wise and Gil Bellows. CONTRIBUTED

In Gil Bellows' new drama Three Days in Havana, Cuba plays as much a character as the Canadian actor's ill-fated protagonist.

"What a beautiful, dynamic place to be," said Bellows from Los Angeles. "What prompted us to tell this kind of story was to put a character in an environment that would feel foreign to him and to an audience and make it take on this personality of its own so it could be mysterious and sexy and comical."

Reminiscent of the suspense-filled films of Alfred Hitchcock, the movie tells the tale of an insurance executive who heads to Havana only to find himself embroiled in a mysterious murder plot after meeting an ebullient but evasive writer in the Cuban capital.

"We went twice to scout (and) found all our locations, our actors, all the good places to eat and good places to listen to music and hang out," said Bellows who co-wrote and co-directed the film with creative partner Tony Pantages. "We tried to squeeze every ounce of our experience and put it into the film."

In essence, Three Days in Havana took nearly a quarter of a century to bring to the big screen. Pantages and Bellows (who may best be recognized for his role on TV's Ally McBeal) first decided to make a movie when both were still struggling actors. After finding inspiration with this story in 2010, the pair took the unusual strategy of writing a treatment to send to 10 different writers to interpret their own version.

"Ultimately we shaped and carved and rewrote but it gave us the opportunity to mine and tap into the imaginations and creativity of a bunch of people who we wanted to work with," said Bellows. "We (wanted this to be) both the celebration of 25 years of friendship and at the same time the grand experiment — and that part of it *was* a grand experiment."

Quoted

"What prompted us to tell this kind of story was to put a character in an environment that would feel foreign to him and to an audience and make it take on this personality of its own so it could be mysterious and sexy and comical."

Actor and director Gil Bellows

Bellows on:

- **His inspirations:** "The Coen Brothers, (Alfred) Hitchcock, (Michaelangelo) Antonioni. Those were the three big ones."
- **Directing:** "I've sort of toyed with directing a few different times and I like it. I definitely want to incorporate the opportunity to do it a few more times with some stories I'm eager to do."

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Comedy/Drama

Bad Words

Director. Jason Bateman

Stars. Jason Bateman, Kathryn Hahn

Jason Bateman makes his feature directorial debut with Bad Words. Bateman stars as Guy Trilby, a 40-year-old who finds a loophole in the rules of The Golden Quill national spelling bee and decides to cause trouble by hijacking the competition. Contest officials, outraged parents, and overly ambitious eighth graders are no match for Guy, as he ruthlessly crushes their dreams of victory and fame.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 74% **Audience:** 65%

Mystery/Comedy

Cheap Thrills

Director. E.L. Katz

Stars. Pat Healy, Sara Paxton

Cheap Thrills follows Craig (Pat Healy), a family man who loses his job and is threatened with eviction. To delay facing the music at home, he heads to a local bar and encounters a friend (Ethan Embry). The two friends are roped into drinks by a stranger (David Koechner) and his wife (Sara Paxton). The couple engages the two in dares for money, and soon the couple pushes how far Craig and his friend are willing to go for money and cheap thrills.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 96%

Drama

Noah

Director. Darren Aronofsky

Stars. Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly

Russell Crowe stars as Noah in the film inspired by the epic biblical story of courage, sacrifice and hope. Directed by visionary filmmaker Darren Aronofsky.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 75%

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAR. 28 TO THURS., APR. 3. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Broadway Theatre
715 Broadway Ave.

Bettie Page Reveals All (STC) Sun 9:30
Cache (14A) Sun 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Sat Mon

Cineplex Odeon Centre
3510 8th St. East

300: Rise of an Empire (18A) Mon-Tue 5:50-8:10 Wed 2:05-5:50-8:10 Thu 5:50-8:10
300: Rise of an Empire 3D (18A) Fri 4:45-7:35-10:20 Sat 2:10-4:45-7:35-10:20 Sun 2:10-4:45-7:25-9:55
Divergent (PG) No Passes Fri 3:50-7-10:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 4:30-6:50 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-6:50 Mon-Tue 5:30 Wed 2-5:30 Thu 5:30
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri 4:55-7:25-10 Sat 2:30-4:55-7:25-10 Sun 2:30-4:50-7:15-9:30 Mon-Tue 5:35-7:55 Wed 1:55-5:35-7:55 Thu 5:35-7:55
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri 4:25-7:15-9:55 Sat 1:40-4:25-7:15-9:55 Sun 1:40-4:25-7:05-9:40 Mon-Tue 6-8:40 Wed 1:40-6-8:40 Thu 6-8:40
Need for Speed 3D (PG) Fri 3:55-6:55-9:45 Sat 1-3:55-6:55-9:45 Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Tue 5:45-8:35 Wed 1:50-5:45-8:35 Thu 5:45-8:35
Noah (STC) No Passes Fri 4-7:10-10:15 No Passes Sat 12:55-4-7:10-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:55-4-6:55-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
Son of God (PG) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun 9:15 Mon-Thu 8

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South

300: Rise of an Empire 3D (18A) Fri 5-7:45-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:30-5-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:45-10:20
Bad Words (14A) Fri 5:45-8:10-10:35 Sat 1:15-3:30-5:45-8:10-10:35 Sun 1:15-3:35-5:45-8-10:15 Mon-Thu 8-10:15
Bolshoi Ballet: Marco Spada (STC) Sun 12:55
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 8
Divergent (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-6:50-7:30-10-10:45 No Passes Sat 12:30-1:10-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:30-10-10:45 No Passes Sun 12:20-1-3:30-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50-7:20-10-10:30
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) No Passes Fri 5:10-7:40-10:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:25-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:40-10:15
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 4:50-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Sat 11
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Sat 11-12:10 Sun 12:10
Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D (G) Fri 5:05-7:25-9:50 Sat 2:35-5:05-7:25-9:50 Sun 2:35-5:05-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:25-9:55
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri 5:15-7:55-10:35 Sat 2:40-5:15-7:55-10:35 Sun 12-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:50-10:25
National Theatre Live: War Horse (PG) Wed 6:30
Need for Speed 3D (PG) Fri 4:05-7-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7-10:05 Mon-Thu 7-10:05
Noah (STC) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:15-10:30 No Passes Sat 1-4:10-7:15-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:50-4-7:15-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-10:30
Non-Stop (PG) Fri 5:25-8-10:40 Sat 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:40 Sun 12:15-7:35-10:10 Mon-Wed 7:35-10:10 Thu 7:15
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 5:30-8:05-10:25 Sat 12:45-3:15-5:30-8:05-10:25 Sun 3:15-5:30-8:05-10:25 Mon-Tue 8:05-10:25 Wed 10:25

Roxy Theatre
320 20th St West

At Middleton (STC) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
Enemy (14A) Sat 3:20 Sun 3:20-8 Mon-Thu 8
The Invisible Woman (PG) Sat-Sun 1
Rhymes for Young Ghouls (18A) Fri 9:15 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon
The Centre at Circle & 8th

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
3 Days to Kill (14A) Fri-Thu 2:10-7:15
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20
Frozen (G) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 Thu 4:20-7-9:40 Thu 1
Labor Day (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:30
Ride Along (PG) Fri-Thu 4:50-9:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-5-8:50

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

There's Snow doubt at all fans want to see shy Kit's body

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

You can't be a Game of Thrones star and be a prude.

If you want to wash your hair, conceal your butt and leave your mother unscandalized, you'd better go into accounting. So sayeth Kit Harington, who stars as Jon Snow in the HBO epic, for now, until his character gets eaten by the Lannisters or something.

"It's only right, if you're going to make a show where nudity and sex is a large part of it, that you be a part of that," he told GQ.

As a matter of fact, Kit's parts have not yet been a part of that. The one time we saw Jon Snow's butt jumping into a river, Kit had a broken ankle and a stand-in had to perform the scene. He's not raring to take his turn stripping down, though.

"I wouldn't say I'd be happy about it," he said. "I'm not saying (if I would do a nude scene). Because I don't know. It would have to be f—ing well deserved."

I'll tell you who well deserves it: The show's female (and gay) fans, who have sat through breast after breast after breast, "well deserved" or not. But do what you want, Kit. Don't do anything you're not comfortable with.

Zac Efron ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It beggars belief that Efron fought tramps — not such a glass act after all, Zac

Zac Efron seems to be having a hard time keeping out of trouble. The latest incident for the clean and sober star involves getting into a fight with a transient near L.A.'s Skid Row, according to TMZ. Efron and his bodyguard were reportedly stranded near an underpass of the 110 freeway after their car ran out of gas earlier this week and attracted the anger of nearby homeless men when Efron tossed out a glass bottle that shattered near an encampment. Tensions between the homeless men and Efron's camp escalated, with the High School Musical star reportedly taking a punch to the mouth. No arrests were made, as police could not single out anyone as the instigator in the "mutual combat" situation, according to police reports.

Was Gwyneth's split from Chris due to a midlife crisis — and will she regret it?

Gwyneth Paltrow

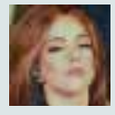
Sources close to Gwyneth Paltrow think her split from husband Chris Martin could be due to a mid-life crisis she's currently weathering. "It does seem she is having a mid-life crisis," a source tells Radar Online. "To say she is obsessed with her physical appearance is also an understatement. Turning 40 seemed to do something to her psyche. She could very well regret the decision to separate from Chris. He is an amazing father and very supportive spouse."

Yes, I'm a Girls fan, Lena, but lay off the fat-friendly messages, says Rivers

Joan Rivers

Joan Rivers insists she's a fan of Girls star Lena Dunham's brand of comedy, but she's not such a fan of Dunham's more revealing wardrobe choices — like the tiny bikini she donned for an entire episode recently. "That's wrong. You're sending the wrong message out to people saying, 'It's OK, stay fat, get diabetes, everybody die. Lose your fingers,'" Rivers tells Howard Stern during an interview. "If you look the way you look, Lena, and that's fun and you're funny, don't say it's OK that other girls can look like this. Try to look better."

Twitter



@ladygaga
I became a Twitter User exactly 6yrs ago. Was one of the 1st! Luv to all my followers from the original Twitter queen.

@Miles_Teller
When I was a kid it was all boogie men and black widows. Now it's opened mailboxes, rush hour traffic and expiration dates

@PamGrier
Must produce a reality show on the Secret Service.

Liquid Assets

More to love about Italy

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Italy is a big chunk of the wine world. With 20 regions, and close to 1,000 different grapes growing, it ranks second only to France when tallying up total wine production.

Trouble is, even with so much variety, the wines from Veneto (Valpolicella and Pinot Grigio) and Tuscany (Chianti) make up the majority of what the average Canadian wine drinker is buying.

That leaves a lot of room for discovery, and a good place to start your journey is the central Italian region of Abruzzo — the country's fifth largest winemaker. The montepulciano grape calls the area home and it creates easy-drinking wines with a dark red colour, balanced acidity and rounded tannins, making them food-friendly and sippable by their lonesome.

Illuminati's 2012 Riparosso Montepulciano d'Abruzzo ($14.10 - $16.95) is a modern take on the style that spends only six months aging in oak which allows a dark, jammy goodness to dominate. Its ripe plummy flavour and dried cherry finish is an ideal partner for lamb, pasta with meat sauces, beefy burgers and aged cheeses. **PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Including unconventional flavours in your dishes doesn't have to be difficult. Bestselling Australian chef Donna Hay shows us how, with a delicious shallow-fried recipe from her cookbook Fast, Fresh, Simple.

Adding Asian accents: Simple Thai Fish Cakes

This recipe serves two. DONNA HAY

FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE
Donna Hay
gustotv.com

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 500 g firm white fish fillets, skin off
- 2 tbsp finely grated ginger
- 2 tbsp chili jam
- 1/4 cup coriander (cilantro) leaves
- 1 egg white
- vegetable oil, for shallow frying
- lime wedges, to serve

Cucumber and Lime Salad

- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tsp fish sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp superfine sugar
- 3 Lebanese cucumbers, sliced with a vegetable peeler
- 1/4 cup mint leaves
- 1/4 cup coriander (cilantro) leaves

1. Place the fish, ginger, chili jam, coriander and egg white in the bowl of a food processor and process until smooth.

2. With slightly wet hands shape the mixture into 12 flat cakes.

3. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add 1 cm of oil and cook the fish cakes, in batches, 4 minutes each side or until cooked.

4. To make the cucumber and lime salad, place the lime juice, fish sauce and sugar in a bowl and mix to combine.

5. Add the cucumber, mint and coriander and toss to coat. Serve with the fish cakes and lime wedges. **WATCH DONNA HAY FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE THURSDAYS STARTING AT 10 P.M. EST/PT ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.**

Salad

Chicken Rice Noodle Salad with Coconut Milk Dressing

- 150 g flat rice noodles
- 2 x 200 g cooked chicken breast fillets, sliced
- 2 long red chili peppers, deseeded and finely sliced
- 4 finely shredded kaffir lime leaves
- 3 green onions (scallions), finely sliced
- 1/2 cup coriander (cilantro) leaves
- 1/2 cup mint leaves
- 1/2 cup basil leaves

Coconut Milk Dressing

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tbsp caster (superfine) sugar

Place rice noodles in a large bowl, cover with boiling water and stand for 4–6 minutes or until soft. Drain and rinse.

Toss the noodles with the chicken, chili, lime leaf, onion, coriander, mint and basil.

To make the coconut milk dressing, combine the coconut milk, fish sauce, juice and sugar.

Pour over the salad to serve. **DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM**

Serves two. DONNA HAY

Lunch. Thai chicken soup

Ingredients

- 3 cups (750 ml) chicken stock
- 2 cups (500 ml) coconut milk
- 1 long red chili, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp grated ginger
- 6 kaffir lime leaves, shredded
- 2 coriander (cilantro) roots, washed and finely chopped
- 1 x 200 g chicken breast fillet, trimmed and sliced
- 60 g snow peas, shredded
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- coriander (cilantro) leaves and extra sliced chili, to serve

1. Place stock, coconut milk, chili, ginger, lime leaves and coriander root in a saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 3 minutes.

2. Add the chicken and cook for 2 minutes. Add the snow peas and cook for a further minute.

3. Stir though the fish sauce and lime juice. Ladle into bowls and serve with coriander leaves and extra chili, if desired.

DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM

This recipe serves two. DONNA HAY

How to live green for real in your home

KITCHEN TABLE
WASHING
FOOT-PUMP WASHING MACHINE AND SPINNER (GURADORA)
STANDARD WASHING MACHINE
LIGHT
MICROALGAE LAMP: ALGAE + WATER
HOUSE
Wood wins: Carbon footprint of building materials for a single-storey home
TONNES OF CO2
FLOOR STRUCTURE
ROOF FRAME
WALL
WINDOWS
Substituting a cubic metre of wood for other construction materials (concrete, blocks or bricks) will save up to one tonne of CO2 emissions.
HEATING
KG OF CO2 EMISSION PER MEGAWATT HOURS
POWER
COMMUTING
KG OF CARBON EMISSIONS PER PASSENGER/KILOMETRE

3 reasons why you should turn off the lights this Saturday

Be a superhero for the planet

Each one of us is powerful — more than we think — when it comes to the choices we make about what we consume, how we use resources, the products we buy and how we reuse and recycle. These efforts, multiplied around the world, have a major impact on the planet.

Earth Hour is this Saturday. In homes and cities all around the world, at 8:30 p.m. local time, people will switch off their lights as a symbolic demonstration of their commitment to conserve the planet.

WWF is excited about this year's partnership with Spider-Man for Earth Hour. And it is hugely inspiring that the stars of the The Amazing Spider-Man 2 — Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Jamie Foxx, along with director Marc Webb — are lending their support.

You, too, can help by switching off your lights for Earth Hour this weekend, but also in the ways you live your daily life and the choices you make, every day of the year.

Use the power of the crowd

The 2014 Earth Hour also sees the launch of an innovative digital crowdfunding and crowdsourcing platform, Earth Hour Blue, which aims to harness the power of the crowd to raise funds and awareness for essential on-the-ground environmental projects around the world.

With a few simple clicks, you can help deliver energy-efficient stoves to families in Madagascar, help communities in the Philippines build fibre-glass boats to withstand climate impacts like Typhoon Haiyan, support conservation of the iconic Table Mountain National Park in South Africa, and provide better equipment for WWF rangers protecting Indonesia's endangered wildlife — like the Sumatran tiger, elephant, rhino and orangutan, and their forest home.

You can also show your support for essential conservation projects around the world by adding your voice to important digital campaigns — such as helping end shark-finning in marine waters for the consumption of shark fin soup, and saving the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

We love cities

Odds are you're reading this on your daily commute. Today, more than half of us live in urban spaces, generating more than 70 per cent of the world's CO2 emissions. But there is so much we can do to reduce our footprint on the planet, even in cities.

WWF's Earth Hour City Challenge was created to mobilize action and support from cities in the essential global transition towards a resilient, climate-smart future. The challenge celebrates and encourages the best of urban green innovations, in areas ranging from cleaner energy to more efficient buildings and less waste. Fourteen national winners and one global Earth Hour Capital are being announced this week, decided in part by the thousands of votes received online from citizens around the world.

It really is up to each one of us to save the planet — individually, as businesses or governments, and in groups of concerned citizens committed to bringing about positive change for this amazing planet we call home. And to do that, we all need to channel our inner superhero!

JIM LEAPE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WWF INTERNATIONAL

Top 5 celebs with real eco-stardom

Not satisfied with just fame and fortune, these celebrities are saving their star performance for all things green

METRO WORLD NEWS

Stella McCartney: Eco-couturier

Her father Paul is rock royalty but it's Stella McCartney who's the fashion queen of green. The designer drives a hybrid Lexus, all UK operations are powered by Ecotricity and Stella McCartney LTD is carbon-neutral.

Woody Harrelson: He's driving on hemp

The actor is (bus)ting a gut to go eco. He has a bus fuelled by hemp oil dubbed The Mothership, decked out with cork floors and solar panels. And the True Detective star loves a dash of danger, too: He once scaled the Golden Gate Bridge in protest against logging.

Willie Nelson: Naturally good fuel

The country and western crooner is hitting the right note when it comes to cleaner fuels. His BioWillie biofuel is made from waste fats, vegetable and seed oil crops, which produce 70 per cent fewer emissions compared to ULSD (ultra-low sulphur diesel).

Leonardo DiCaprio: Always stars in green

The Playboy of the Hollywood World is giving back to the environment. His foundation set up in 1998 is a do-gooder's guide to saving the world — a platform for everything from saving rainforests in Sumatra to protecting Antarctica. Leo's next movie role should be for Captain Planet.

John Mayer: Top of the green charts

Life on the road isn't exactly conducive to an eco-friendly existence but the recording artist is doing just that with a biodiesel bus, backstage recycling and green merchandise. As yet, there's no word on whether he'll be turning his sets down to combat noise pollution.

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A STYLISH SPOT FOR A LAID-BACK MEAL

TWIST ON CLASSICS AT 2ND AVE GRILL

The 2nd Ave Grill is a casual dining steakhouse located in the heart of downtown Saskatoon, popular for its corporate power lunches, and executive and pre-theatre dining. An established part of the Saskatoon Jazz Festival, the grill is known as a classy place, perfect for a romantic rendezvous. The Atrium, a skylit area within the restaurant, attracts high-profile group gatherings, cocktail parties, weddings and rehearsal dinners.

The contemporary styling gives 2nd Ave Grill a big-city feel, and the deliciously metropolitan menu offers a modern twist on classic dishes, served with warm hospitality and personalized attention in a lively and upbeat atmosphere.

Favourite dishes like the Wild Mushroom and Roast Chicken Soup, the Pistachio Crusted Salmon, and the Nicoise Salad — with fresh ahi tuna, hard boiled egg, asparagus, and potatoes — keep bringing guests back for more. With a martini list that is second to none, a vast selection of the finest wines, modern décor, and flawless hospitality, you can count on the 2nd Ave Grill team to deliver a perfect experience. Plus, they offer complimentary underground parking in the Scotia parkade from Thursday to Saturday after 5 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED

JAN INFANTE/SHUTTERSTOCK

A TASTE OF MARDI GRAS ON THE PRAIRIES

MENU INCLUDES CATFISH, ALLIGATOR

When Rob Tingey decided to open up a restaurant in Saskatoon, he saw a gap in the dining scene that needed to be filled.

"A lot of people were unfamiliar with Cajun and Creole cuisine," he said.

Thus Mardi Gras Grill was born. Menu staples include cornbread, po'boys, catfish, and the infamous alligator, which tends to be a dare food, says Tingey.

"People on dates encourage the other to try it," he said. "And when you do try it, it's amazing. It always gets the best response." So far, he says he doesn't know of anyone who has disliked it.

While there are no guarantees yet, Tingey is also looking into bringing more exotic foods to the grill, such as rattlesnake and frog legs.

The food isn't the only exciting feature on offer: Mardi Gras Grill is now bringing live music to the dining room, and once the weather is warm enough, it will be opening its deck and hosting crawfish boils.

The authentic food and party atmosphere has truly brought a taste of Mardi Gras to Saskatoon. And his efforts haven't gone unnoticed: Tingey's clientele has included visitors from Louisiana, who said it's rare to find Cajun and Creole food that is so spot on.

Mardi Gras Grill
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mardigrasgrillrestaurant
Tuesday to Wednesday Noon-9PM, Thursday to Saturday Noon-10PM, Sunday 3PM-9PM

NBA

Sucks to be Sixers

The Philadelphia 76ers tied the NBA record with their 26th straight loss Thursday night, as James Harden's triple-double led the Houston Rockets to a 120-98 victory.

Harden had 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Philadelphia matched the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers for the NBA's worst skid and can set the record at home against Detroit on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Nadal's comeback ousts Raonic

Canadian Milos Raonic put up a fight but could not earn the upset as top seed Rafael Nadal recovered to win their quarter-final matchup in a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 comeback at the Sony Open Thursday.

The Thornhill, Ont., product cemented his return next week to the ATP top 10 as he won his first career set against Nadal after four losses in the series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafael Nadal plays a shot against Milos Raonic in Key Biscayne, Fla., on Thursday.

LUIS M. ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The world curling championship gets underway in China just days after news dropped of an upcoming off-season shakeup of Kevin Koe's Team Canada rink.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tumultuous times for Koe-favourites

Curling. Team Canada will try to put backroom deals and rumours aside at world championship

Canada's Kevin Koe is trying his best to avoid distractions and focus on curling as he prepares for the men's world curling championship.

There have been a few challenges for Koe in the lead-up to the competition, which opens Saturday at Beijing's Capital Indoor Stadium. Chief among them is news that there are changes coming to his rink next season.

Koe's current lineup features second Carter Rycroft, third Pat Simmons and lead Nolan Thiessen. Rycroft, whose wife is pregnant, has already said he'll be taking a year off after this season.

Kevin Martin confirmed to The Canadian Press that Marc Kennedy and Ben Hebert will be leaving his rink to join Koe's next season while Sportsnet reported that Brent Laing of Glenn Howard's rink will round out the new foursome.

Koe preferred to keep his focus on the worlds and declined to comment on the coming changes.

The timing is less than ideal for Koe and his teammates. Gerry Peckham, the Canadian Curling Association's high-performance director, expects Koe to be able to lock in on the immediate task before him.

"Our analysis of his performance skills and performance attributes would suggest that he's an incredibly focused individual and is seldom distracted by anything external to the game at hand," Peckham said. "I think those teammates have looked in each other in the eye again, squared their shoulders, are shaking each other's hands and are now moving on to complete this journey of a world championship." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duvernay-Tardif doesn't disappoint

Canada's Laurent Duvernay-Tardif has his eyes set firmly on the upcoming NFL draft.

Under the gaze of nine NFL and four CFL scouts, Duvernay-Tardif confirmed why he's one of the most touted Canadian football prospects in recent memory.

The six-foot-five offensive lineman for the McGill Redmen had his private pro day in Montreal on Thursday. He leapt, sprinted and tackled during the two-hour training session, setting personal bests and impressing his visitors from out of town.

It's been a while since a CIS player garnered such attention from both sides of the border.

"It doesn't happen every day, sure," said the 23-year-old, who chose to let scouts from both professional football leagues assess his abilities simultaneously, rather than attend last week's CFL combine. "And it's not every day a Canadian gets the opportunity to do what I'm doing. I don't know if this is historic. But I'm really happy it happened to me."

Statement made

"It was time to show what I could do. I knew what I was going to hit. I hit those numbers, and even better."

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif on his combine results.

Duvernay-Tardif, a medical student at Montreal's McGill University, is projected as a third- to fourth-round pick in May's NFL draft.

The native of St-Hilaire, Que., scored a personal best in the broad jump Thursday, and some scouts clocked him in at less than five seconds in the 40-yard dash — impressive results for a player weighing just under 300 pounds.

Scouts from Oakland, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Arizona, New York, Green Bay, Chicago, San Francisco and Buffalo gathered in Montreal to see first-hand if the Quebecois player has what it takes to compete in the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif won the J.P. Metras Trophy as the top lineman last season in the CIS.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

4 SPORTS

5-tool baseball observer

A look at storylines to keep track of this season with the Toronto Blue Jays

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Photos by Torstar News Service

Anthopoulos-Gibbons

General manager Alex Anthopoulos brought John Gibbons back last season to manage the Jays after John Farrell departed for Boston. Even with a big roster shakeup, the team failed big time in 2013. If Toronto continues to fail on the field, how much longer do Anthopoulos, or the affable Gibbons, have?

Starting pitching

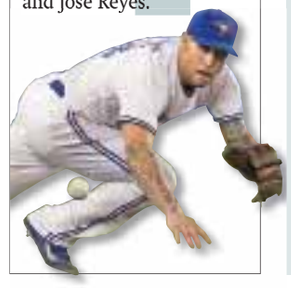
There are more than a few question marks here, which isn't promising considering the Jays starters went 46-57 last season with a 4.81 ERA. Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey, lefthander Mark Buehrle and Brandon Morrow lead the rotation with Drew Hutchison and Dustin McGowan completing the quintet — at least to start with.

Attendance

About the only thing that went up last year for the Blue Jays was attendance. Despite the poor results, 2013 attendance reached 2,536,562 for an average of 31,315 at the Rogers Centre. That marked a considerable jump from 2012 when attendance totalled 2,099,663 for an average of 25,921. Will Toronto fans remain on the bandwagon if the product disappoints again this season?

Defence

One positive this season looks to be defence, with a healthy Melky Cabrera plus Colby Rasmus and Jose Bautista in the outfield and Ryan Goins adding his fielding skills to an infield already brimming with talent in that area with Brett Lawrie and Jose Reyes.



The bench

With Toronto going with an eight-man bullpen, the Jays bench will be very thin. Backup catcher Josh Thole, whose main job is to handle Dickey, is a career .251 hitter whose average dropped to .175 in limited major-league action last season. The other two are outfielder Moises Sierra and utility infielder Maicer Izturis.

MLB spring training

Hutchison ready for the real thing

Drew Hutchison gave up one hit in 5 1/3 scoreless innings and led the Toronto Blue Jays past the Philadelphia Phillies 3-0 on Thursday.

Hutchison is scheduled to start Toronto's second regular-season game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday. He allowed a single to Jimmy Rollins in the fourth, walked three and struck out three.

The right-hander beat out several candidates, including Todd Redmond, Esmil Rogers and Ricky Romero, for a spot in the rotation. He was 5-3 with a 4.60 ERA in 11 starts as a rookie in 2012.

Dioner Navarro hit a sacrifice fly off Phillies starter A.J. Burnett in the fourth. Gabe Jacobo added a two-run single in the eighth.

Burnett gave up three hits with one walk and six strikeouts in five innings. The right-hander signed a two-year, $22.5-million deal with Philadelphia in February. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Badgers burst Bears' bubble

Brady Heslip of the Baylor Bears attempts to pass out of the double-team put up by Wisconsin Badgers Ben Brust, left, and Nigel Hayes during the round of 16 in the NCAA men's basketball tournament on Thursday in Anaheim. Wisconsin won 69-52. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Sweet Sixteen

Underdog Dayton dashes past Stanford

Jordan Sibert scored 18 points, Kendall Pollard added a season-high 12 and Dayton rolled past Stanford 82-72 on Thursday to make the NCAA tournament's Elite Eight for the first time since 1984.

No. 11 Dayton (26-10) continued its underdog run and this one wasn't particularly close. The six-foot-four Sibert was spectacular, slashing to the basket and draining three-pointers, to help the Flyers lead for almost the entire night.

No. 10 Stanford (23-13) had the superior post play, but it wasn't enough. Chasson Randle led the Cardinal with 21 points, but shot 5-for-21 from the field. Dwight Powell of Toronto added 17. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How high can they fly? Jays' pitching has answer

MLB. Toronto manager confident offence will carry team but unsure of starting rotation

Mark Buehrle, left, and R.A. Dickey account for two-fifths of the Blue Jays' starting rotation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto manager John Gibbons says the Blue Jays will go as far as their pitching takes them this season.

Buckle up, then. It could be another bumpy ride through the talent-rich American League East.

Gibbons believes the Jays will score runs in 2014 while blunting opposition attacks with good defence. But when it comes to pitching, the Toronto manager seemed to be lowering expectations as the pre-season wore on.

"We don't have to have a shutdown rotation, just keep us in the game, somewhat match the opposition and let the offence take over," he said during spring training.

"We really like our bullpen, (it's) strong. We can match up pretty good down there and our defence is much improved if we can keep everybody on the field as well. So we're feeling pretty good, but we've got to get some starting pitching."

From where, some might ask.

The Jays have been unable to add to the rotation of the team that went a disappointing 74-88 after loading up on talent. Take away an 11-game win streak last June and 2013 was a truly dismal season.

Toronto's starters went 46-57 with a 4.81 earned-run average in 2013. Only Minnesota had a higher starting ERA (5.26).

Toronto pitchers ranked 25th in the majors with a 4.25 ERA. Playing in the hitter-friendly confines of the Rogers Centre, Toronto gave up 195 home runs — only the Baltimore Orioles yielded more (202).

Asked if he believes the Jays have enough pitching, slugger Jose Bautista offered optimism.

"Talent-wise yes. There's no doubt that in this room we have enough guys that are talented enough to lead us into having a great season," he said.

It's all about translating that talent into execution and results.

Toronto was 15-17 in games decided by two runs and 20-29 in games decided by one run.

Concerns about the pitching mean the Jays will go with an eight-man bullpen: Casey Janssen, Steve Delabar, Sergio Santos, Brett Cecil, Aaron Loup, Esmil Rogers, Todd Redmond and Jeremy Jeffress. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Starting rotation

1. R.A. Dickey, right-handed pitcher: 14-13, 4.21 ERA in 2013.
2. Drew Hutchison, RHP: 5-3, 4.60 (2012).
3. Mark Buehrle, LHP: 12-10, 4.15.
4. Brandon Morrow, RHP: 2-3, 5.63.
5. Dustin McGowan, RHP: 0-0, 2.45.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You'll make your presence felt today, especially at work where power planet Pluto encourages you to believe you are worthy of bigger and better things. You are entitled to be treated with respect — and you will make sure you get it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The planets will give you the confidence to let important people know what you are capable of. Don't worry that they might think you are being too pushy because that's just what they are looking for.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Money matters and career issues are under good influences today, so be brave and make the first move if you feel there is cash to be made or a promotion to be won.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
With communications planet Mercury linked to Pluto in your opposite sign today you won't hesitate to call it as you see it. Some people may be shocked that you are so outspoken but you won't care in the slightest.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone suggests you need to prove your commitment, maybe you should reconsider the status of your relationship. As far as you are concerned, it is a partnership of equals. If they can't agree, say goodbye.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You're in a rebellious mood and may do something that shocks friends and enemies. Good. Too many people have been taking you for granted.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will know if someone is lying to you today. There is no way they can pull the wool over your eyes. Whether or not you let them know you are not fooled is up to you. It may benefit you to play dumb.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Reach out to someone you have not seen or heard from in a while. Not only will you have plenty of gossip to catch up on, you may find your long-term plans coincide nicely.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be a rebel by nature but this is not a good time to rock the boat. Instead, find out what assistance friends and family members need and do what you can to help them realize their goals.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Pluto in your sign endows you with the courage to get things done, and today and over the weekend you will push yourself harder than you have done for a long time. But it's not just about physical effort. Think harder, and deeper, too.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
An investment you made a while back will pay off today and you will be glad you had the sense to act on what your inner voice told you. What it's telling you now is to not get carried away.

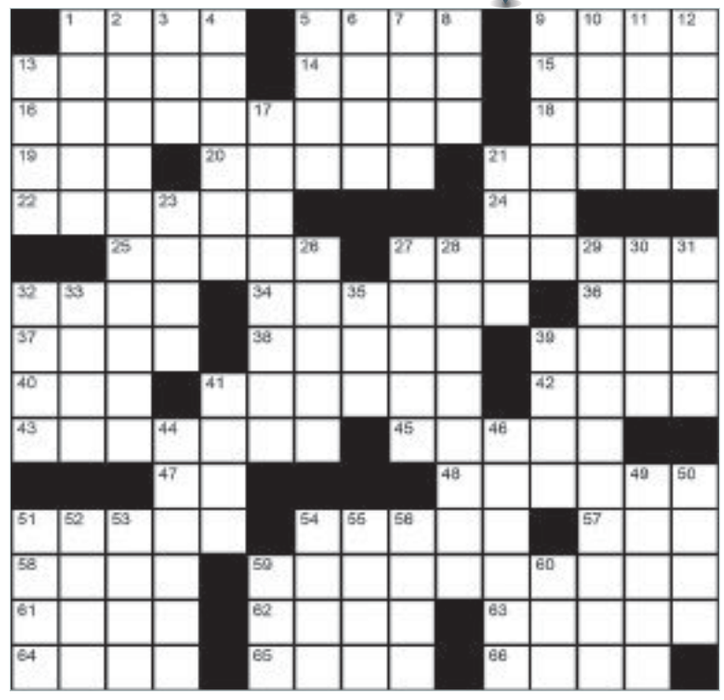
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Even if you are the kind of Pisces who does not like to rock the boat, you will let certain people know where they have been going wrong.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

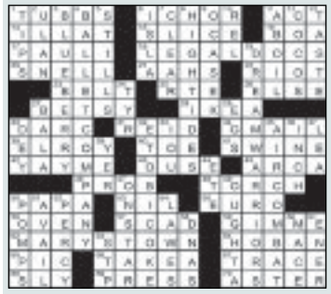
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Snake sounds
5. Staff on a ship
9. Kitchen knife-using move
13. "Lorna __" (1951)
14. Actress Ms. Turner (b.1921 - d.1995)
15. Practitioners of it might be wearing Lululemon
16. Mega music event this weekend: 2 wds.
18. Ernie's pal
19. Work unit
20. Eras
21. Rhinoplasty targets
22. Montreal's __ College
24. Certain conjunction
25. Prone to drips
27. Reside ruggedly: 2 wds.
32. Honest
34. Denizens of The Hawkeye State
36. 'Press' suffix
37. Plucked instrument
38. Milan-based fashion house
39. Marie-Claire's friend
40. Banqueted
41. Unravel the scarf and start all over again
42. Fewer
43. Intersection in #17-Down, __ and Main
45. Spherical
47. Out's opposite
48. Gives warning
51. Canadian Transport Minister, Lisa __
54. Single-named male model
57. Eggs, Latin-style
58. Opposing
59. "Kids in the Hall: __ __" (1996)
61. __-Cola
62. "I Got You __" by Sonny & Cher
63. Decks, in boxing
64. Comic actress Madeline
65. Blue hue
66. Competed on "American Idol"

Down
1. "This milk is __ _ bit, don't you think?" (Milk-drinker's complaint)
2. An attendee at #16-Across
3. __-Cone
4. "Airport" (1970) director, George __
5. __ up (Become tight-lipped)
6. Uncommon
7. Terminates
8. Existed
9. Robotically-enhanced Sci-Fi human
10. Works the flower beds
11. Demon
12. Mr. Sajak's
13. Spun/scratched the LPs
17. Setting of #16-Across
21. We: French
23. Certain
26. Singer, Thom __
27. "You Turn Me On, I'm a __" by Joni Mitchell
28. Where some commuters are right now: 3 wds.
29. Jessica Tandy's Canadian actor hubby who starred in "Cocoon" (1985): 2 wds.
30. Flower kind
31. Football accessories
32. Envelope part
33. Using-a-street thing
35. Pallid
39. "No word of _ __." (True)
41. Mouth off
44. Renaissance painter from Venice
46. Barricades
49. The Littlest Hobo, e.g.: 2 wds.
50. Pronounces
51. Coat __
52. Small buffalo
53. Yen
54. Skirmish
55. Rhyming scheme
56. "Tres __!"
59. UK network
60. Battery size

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2				3			5	
5	3		9					6
		4			8			
9	7			1				
	6						3	
				5			4	8
			1			5		
7					3		6	1
	9			6				2

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	1	6	9	3	7	2	6
6	5	9	7	2	8	4	1	3
3	2	7	4	1	6	8	5	9
1	8	6	9	7	4	5	3	2
7	9	5	6	3	2	1	8	4
4	3	2	8	5	1	9	6	7
5	1	4	2	6	7	3	9	8
2	7	3	1	8	9	6	4	5
9	6	8	3	4	5	2	7	1

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Email : soapskss@mail.com

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